The Industrial Labour Welfare Association Ltd.,

Welcome Address

by

G. D. Naidu

To

Sir C. P. Ramasami Ayyar,
K.C.S.I., K C.I.E., C.I.E., LL.D.,

who distributed the certificates to the Students from Annamalai University, who completed the first part of the 4th Vacational course,

and the Latter's speech

on

6—12—49

at

"Gopal Bagh"

Avanashi Road **Coimbatore**

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The Industrial Labour Welfare Association Ltd.,

A meeting was arranged on 6-12-49 at 5-15 P. M. at Gopal Bagh in order to issue certificates to students from Annamalai University who have completed the Ist part of the 4th Vacational Refresher Course in Automobile Servicing. Sir C. P. Ramasami Ayyar distributed the certificates to the students, and gave a very interesting reply to Mr. G. D. Naidu's speech.

In welcoming Sir C. P. to distribute certificates and give advice to students, Sri G. D. Naidu spoke as follows :—

Friends,

In meeting such as this, usually the chief guest is introduced by spending much time. Is there anyone here who does not know our chief guest Sir C. P. Ramasami Ayyar? If we say as Sir C. P. I think it is known to everybody all over the world. His full name is known only to his friends here. I do not think there is anybody here who does not know his praiseworthy and courageous activities in administration, politics, and industries.

Our neighbour, the present United State of Travancore and Cochin claims achievement in several industries. There, he is standing as a monument adorned with the jewels of Electric schemes and Cochin port made by Sir C. P. and Sir R. K. S.

Though there are several names that are still glowing in our parts in respect of some theories and some philosopical utterances, nowhere in these parts can we find such useful and profitable schemes glowing with bright light made by the leaders. No one could have dreamt that Travancore could have Pallivasal Electric Scheme, Development of paper industries, rubber industries, aluminium industries, fertilizers etc. in such a short time but for the efforts of Sir C. P. Not only in Travancore can you dream of this spinning and weaving industries, but here also irrigation by electric power in prosperous state, if the Pykara system has not been taken up by

Sir C. P. Then what about the Mettur Project; another grand achievement in Madras Presidency. As everyone knows about his further activities, I do not want to spend much time in enumerating numerous achievements he has made for our country, as we want to hear his advice about the electrical period in our country.

Our chief guest will clarify and show everything and lead us along a lighted path to the ultimate goal while we have so many confusions in our country at the present time.

It is natural for every individual group, for every association, for any government to commit some mistake or other while doing things occasionally. Our Government also has committed one first wrong in splitting the Pakistan from India by which numerous innocent children, innocent women and even men have lost their lives and valuable things. If this has not been accepted and even if there has been a fight, then there would have been a loss of a few lives only. Our Mahatmaji would live safely to see the Independent India. Of course this is an occasional mistake.

After gaining this practical experience, I do not know how the Government is sowing seed for further splits by ordering Andhra Province and making preparations for Kerala, Karnataka, Maharashtra and several other bits of provinces on the excuse of Linguistic basis or division. Will it not bring Pakistan events in each and every border of the Provinces to be created newly?

It is true and we see practically that the Central Government cannot rule all the provinces in all aspects from one central place; still the present administration shows they are unable to control black-market, corruption, red-tapism, grow-less-food, grow-illicit-prohibition and grow imaginary dignity, grow-meeting, grow-committees, grow-lectures and finally grow-selfishness everywhere! The Central Government can do sensibly by dividing India as five major provinces, Central, North, East, South and West, which can be controlled on the spot easily by the responsible leaders. Then each province can have sub-provinces or states or districts according to the convenience of the people and the administrative convenience. We seek your kind advice on this matter.

We are seeing the unimaginable state of Red-China with our own eyes. It seems in my opinion our country is going slowly to that rut. On one side the Government is taking very serious steps to put down communism but on the other side, the Government activities are indirectly leading the public to follow communism. Naturally if one suffers even for getting his food, though not for getting other conveniences, he will become a prey for Communism or robberism. I like Communism but I do not like the Indian communism as at present or the Russian Communism. We want a Communism in which each and everyone should work in his capacity in his line of work for the betterment of the country in general, but not killing each other, crushing each other or winning or defeating each other. We want more co-operation

to take endless efforts for the development of our industries, health and knowledge.

Unfortunately the present policy of finance has made every industrialist and business man to leave his original straightforward business but has engaged him in black-market business and inducing him to take as much care to find out in what way to do better business with cent per cent profit but without spending anything in any way.

Though the Government is begging the public to co-operate in industries, production and investments, the trend of the public mind is going down and may hide everything entirely in a very short time.

The British devaluation came as a boon from heaven to India though our friends Dr. Shanmukham and Dr John Mathai, our finance minister, and Pundit Nehru, our Prime Minister are defending that we too are obliged to follow the devaluation and by that alone we can get good benefits. I have taken great efforts to agree with them. My mind is refusing to accept their views but says that the best opportunity to be gained by the British Devaluation has been lost and never more in future, we can have such favourable opportunities for India. It is a big subject in which I know a little, I leave this for our chief guest to enlighten us.

In this same place, once before, you mentioned that in a western country, the portions of a road in front of a house is taken care of by the owner and is

kept clean and neat always. In the same way the people are taught how to live without any disease. If our government gives such training to the public to adopt in their daily routine duties on matters as to how to live in clean houses, how to eat clean and correct food in a correct way, then there will be no necessity for hospitals except for operation cases and no necessity for importing food or for introducing grow-more-food scheme as the food now produced in our country itself will be more than sufficient when they eat properly and live properly. There won't be any necessity for any control at all.

We want to know if you are a Prime Minister now, will you allow the controls started in war time for food, cloth, yarn, cotton, cement, iron etc. to be continued even after war time. The public opinion is, if all the controls are lifted away that within a short period of three to six months or at the most one year everything will come to its normal state. I agree with this. I do not know if this is right or wrong.

Do you agree to the nationalization of Industries or introduction of prohibition before they nationalize suitable people, and other suitable resources? Do you think that the present introduction of nationalization without such a foundation is not a suicidal policy of true nationalization schemes?

The present Education scheme is also going down, for the Government is trying to lift up the education standard with the new born babies such as basic education, education of Hindi, Sanskrit, regional language and translation of words of other

languages into Hindi or regional languages. Of course this language question also will be a "Number one separating machine" i.e. by dividing each social group from the other, and finally each man from the other. Already the difference has grown up in almost all provinces except in one or two provinces where the Hindi is already prevailing.

Can we put one question? If you don't take the same English language which is well known world language as a common language for central purpose, then why can't you take Tamil which is the oldest, best and mother languages for all the languages, or Bengali or Maharattah languages which are the golden languages for the Bengalees or the Maharatas. I think this may become the best weapon to creat differences in our country. Already students have been spoiled in leaps and bounds over this problem. You could have read what had happened in Calcutta, Delhi and Bombay, and while in our Province; what is going on at Ananthapur and Annamalainagar? Though you don't wish them to enter into politics, our present educational system is indirectly leading to politics and then for communism. Is it not the politics and communist spirit that spoiled several students at Annamalai University. After all there is a flimsy cause for the strike viz., the separation of girl and boy students from each other. The same cause is reported from Ananthapur. Are the colleges opened for giving this kind of training? I do not know who is to be blamed. I am not blaming the students who came here from Annamalai University for getting training in the Vacational course, who have

finished their course to-day. I thought that the students who came from Annamalai Univsrsity during the strike period might belong to the strike and as such are spoiled. But I have to say that the students here in general are very fine and everything depends upon how we mould them during the student life. I appreciate their behaviour and their keen interest in acquiring knowledge and their ability to stand any hard work and their courage to undergo the very severe discipline that is in vogue here more than their refresher course.

If you are an Education Minister, will you waste the Government funds and youngsters' time by prolonging the various courses for 3 years, 4 years and 5 years which can be finished in three months, six months or at the most one year. I do not think an S. S. L. C. or Intermediate student need spend more than one year in any college for any subject except medicine and research or such other subjects. You can see some of the students who have finished the short time course Automobile and Radio servicing courses and the Radio sets designed and assembled by the supplied parts within 16 hours by the training they had within 4 weeks. The students had no radio knowledge before they joined the course. They are ordinary S. S. L. C. and Inter. students. Such being the case why this course is prolonged to one year and more upto four or five years? Our Government machine alone cannot adopt such modern and efficient system. I do not want to take much of your time as all the guests and students are awaiting for a long time to hear your advices.

I want to take this opportunity to introduce my frtend who is sitting here. Perhaps many of my friends could have known him through "Prabhu's" Ink, also "Koruz" powder a best medicine for skin disease. He is going to start a clock factory to supply clocks within five to ten rupees each by making them in mass-production. If anybody wants to see him, he is available here until to-morrow morning.

I request the chief guest to distribute the certificate to the students who have finished their part time course.

I THANK YOU ALL.

Speech Delivered by

Sir C. P. RAMASAMI AYYAR

on 6—12—1949

Mr. G. D. Naidu and My Friends,

I do not think that I have been subjected to such a questionnaire very often in my life. Having invited me to a social party and having also carefully refrained from sending an advance copy of his speech to me, he has crowded into that speech so many embarrassing and difficult questions that I am almost tempted to take a short-cut vision.

When we started our tea, I was told that a previous speech of mine was being reproduced. It was rather indistinct and I could not quite recognise my voice, but I have been assured that those outside this hall would hear it beautifully (Laughter). With that consolation I might have followed the example of a very lazy painter of whom we heard a story sometime ago. He was a capable painter but as I said, a very indolent one. A picture had been suggested to him, namely, that of the Israelites crossing the Red Sea. He was given 6 months to draw that picture. He did nothing until the 179th day. The man who had commissioned the picture was importunate and out of temper. He said "I must have the picture to-morrow". In answer, he said "Yes", because he had received the payment already and could not very well refuse to give the

picture. The patron came. The curtain was slowly drawn. There was a blotch of red on the wall and nothing else. And he said "Where are the Israelites?" They have crossed over (Laughter) "Where are the Egyptians?" They are drowned (Laughter) "Where is the Red Sea? You see the red before you (Laughter) and my first impulse was to say, you have already heard me, because my speech has already been reproduced and been heard by this very discerning audience. But, I have always found from experience, very often pleasant and sometimes the reverse, that when Mr. G. D. Naidu makes up his mind to do a thing, he does not easily recognize obstacles and he has a way of circumventing and circumambulating those obstacles and therefore, I have finally resolved not to struggle with him but to comply with his desire to answer not all of his questions but at least some of them.

In the first place, before I commence my task, it is my very pleasant duty to congratulate those young men who have had an enforced holiday from the Annamalai University (Laughter) and have wisely been made to utilize that holiday in making themselves technically fit in Automobile and Radio Service. I have been assured by those who know something of this institution and of Mr. G. D. Naidu's methods that he is a believer in quick results, and in his speech he has made that perfectly obvious to us and knowing what is being turned out here, whatever is not destroyed–I mean for reasons which I shall not enter into great detail–he is able to put inventive capacity into the minds of

his pupils and disciples, and he is one of those men whose many-sided talents deserve much greater and wider recognition and even his eccentricities are somewhat lovable (Hear, hear and applause). It is a great pity that this fact is not always noted that just as genius is supposed to be alike to madness, people of great parts and capacity have got their own very definite views and outlook upon things and problems in general and those who want to take the utmost advantage of those capacities and those potentialities must not only put up with those little amiable-or unamiable weaknesses, may I say-but to utilize them for the advantage of the country. I feel it a great loss to the country that Mr. G. D. Naidu is not able to harness his inventive genius and his organizational powers for the purpose of doing the utmost good to the country, which he loves so well. He has spoken to you and it is my purpose now to dwell on that aspect for a little while. He has spoken to you on this vexed question of industrialization.

As you know, my good friends, during the last two or three years, in addition to the visits that I used to pay almost year after year in the old days, during the last two or three years, I have been concentrating upon a study of industrial and economic methods utilized in countries like North and south America, Australia and Newzealand and England as also France. What have I found in general? I have met our Indian Students in almost all these places. I have taken classes in certain subjects in which I can pretend to some acquaintance in many Universities in the world. Incidentally

I taught Buddism for three hours in the Stanford University in California. Now what did I find wherever I went? I found that opinion was almost unanimous that man for man, lad for lad, woman for woman – I forgot that – (Laughter), the average Indian student was quite the equal in intellectual perspicacity, in the quickness of the uptake and in acuteness of thought and ideation. He was equal of anybody in the world. I go further. From my own personal experience I may say that between the ages of twelve or thirteen and twenty five, the average Indian Student is superior to his compeer in most other countries, if not all the countries of the world (Applause) – (that applause is a little premature) (Laughter). But, what does really happen is after the age of twenty or twenty-two or twenty-five, the Indian Student is weighted with economic burdens. He is overwhelmed with "family responsibilities". His marriage and the results of that marriage stare him in the face and in the net result what happens is, that whereas the American or the English or the German or the Scandinavian youth begins his life-work at the age of twenty-two or twenty-five devoting that portion of his life anterior to that period to sports and making himself generally happy and jolly, whereas he is able to turn out formative, creative, industrial, economic and literary output, the Indian Student's mind grows fallow and he is resting on his imaginary oats. Especially in the case of industrialization, that one aspect struck me painfully and obviously and that was, whereas in theoretical knowledge, in mathematical formulae, in physical and chemical theorems, this young man, the Indian, his fossil springs up,

nevertheless, in University after University, in industrial establishment after one, one after the other, I was told that he was rather funking when he approached a fly-wheel or a machine in motion and he would never take off his coat and do the dirty work of cleaning and rehabilitation and that kind of industrial ground work which is essential for progress.

One of the difficulties of our country is this – that whereas every progressive industrial unit in the world started without any idea of the welfare state and before labour had vindicated and recognized itself and before the constant difficulties and the turmoil which exist to-day between Capital and Labour, between nationalization and private enterprise, before such ideas came to the forefront, the great units of the world had industrialized themselves. In England, in America, in Germany, you had great agglomerations of industrial work. They had done spade work for fifty, sixty, seventy years before they had to face the difficult problems which now face us, namely, the problems of competition between Capital and Labour. The question which is postulated more than once is whether capital is worth living, worth surviving, whether it should stay on or be abolished, whether the state should do all the industrialization or private enterprise, an initiative should be given full sway. Before these problems began, their industries had been established, and therefore, to them these problems are, if not a pastime, at least not so pivotal, not so critical, not so formative, as in our case; nevertheless, we have to face it. We have still to make headway in industrialization.

It was Lenin who said in 1917, when he was asked by a friend "what was the Programme"? what the plan of the Communistic Republic which he was contemplating?, he said, "the first thing is the raising of the standard of life and the first thing necessary for the raising of the standard of life is Electricity, Electricity, Electricity". And that is what took place in Russia. There is a great deal that we can benefit by from the example of Russia. As most people know, I am not a communist. Not yet (Laughter). But the only country which in conditions is similar to India, that is, where the people were in general steeped in ignorance and illiteracy, where the machinery of industrialization had not developed, where the aptitude for industrialization had not been established, that is the only country in which within fifteen to twenty years, industry has been established on a firm, a broad basis with the result that to-day, merely from the point of view of industrial production, the pace, the momentum, the tempo of Russian work is comparable, not only comparable but is in many ways superior to that of other countries and therefore, it is worth while passing a little to contemplate it. But, before we do so, let us realize what are our assets, what are our liabilities.

The assets in India are, firstly, the people of India, that intelligence which till now has worked on an intuitional basis. Let me be a little more clear on that point We are now fairly well convinced that the origin of the Cosmas lies in what is called the Nebular theory, the theory of the gradual crystallization of the original atoms, and

molecules in certain forms and solidifications, liquefaction of gases and the solidification of the liquids. This particular theory not by experiment but by intuition was known as early as the Rig Veda. In most matters of theoretical importance, we have been able by intuition, by insight, not with elaborate argument, not with deduction or inference but as I said intuitively we have been able to gather these things. But where we lack is the experimental faculty, is the way of research and error, trial and error, that is a new method which the west has developed. We need that method and for that purpose the intelligence which I have been referring to already may well be harnessed; but there are two requisites, for the harnessing of those intelligences – raw material, the physical outer raw material and secondly power. That is why, in the beginning, that very very great statesman Sir Seshadri Ayyar who is probably the greatest administrator whom India has produced during the last two or three hundred years, that man made up his mind before any task of industrialization could be completed, to start with the production of power, that is, his hydro-electric enterprises which were frowned upon by the British Government of that day. Merely by way of amusing you, I might give you a story of the great man, his courage and his initiative.

The British Government are against Sir Seshadri Ayyar starting the electrification of Bangalore and went to the extent that they would not take electricity for the Bangalore Cantonment. They said " even if you produce electricity we do not want it". He said in answer "Yes". I am sure of

giving electricity but I charge you four times as much when electricity is produced. They accepted the challenge because they were sure that electricity would not be produced and he did not even employ an English Engineer but a French man, Captain Lobineer, who had been working in Kashmir. The Electricity was produced and he charged four times the rate and it required Lord Curzon's persuasiveness and a certain amount of coercion to lessen the rate (Laughter).

Now we have the first requisite, therefore, to produce power. We now hear a great deal about schemes in Madras, about schemes in Bengal, about the Damodar scheme, about the Tungabadhra scheme. Every Provincial Government is anxious to produce some very great scheme costing not less than twenty, thirty or forty crores and the net result is that these schemes are produced on paper and then comes a sudden fiat 'on account of the present financial circumstances, nothing can be done.' What we should do is what they did in Russia. They were ruthless about the method of procedure in relation to this very power production They established priorities from the point of view of Russia as a whole. If Ukraine, the extreme South of Russia, gave the utmost possible facility for the production of power, they did not want to start power production in Moscow, in Leningrad, in Finland, in Siberia in the Urals and those places. They started with the Magneto Corsk scheme. They started with the Ural scheme and gradually went up. What we do want in India to-day is a very ruthless but very direct method of approach to

this. We have a very very limited amount of capital at our disposal both our own and what is available by way of loan, that capital has to be utilized for the utmost advantage of India as a whole, not for the purpose of satisfying local proclivities, not for the purpose of patting local backs, not for the purpose of giving the ambition to this man that he originated the scheme or the other. What is needed for India as a whole? What is best done at the cheapest cost in the shortest time for the purpose of benefitting the whole country? And now, my good friends, in most of these discussions what is forgotten is what I was reminded of very early, many many years ago when dealing with the Pykhara Scheme in which I had some hand. At that time, it was very difficult to transmit power. Engineers used to tell me of the great difficulties in transmitting power beyond one hundred or two hundred or three hundred or five hundred miles. But, now, by a system of grids, power can be transmitted practically all over India wherever it is produced provided there is co-ordination, there is symmetrical planning, there is conjoined labour and harmonious working together. And therefore, there is no difficulty in planning with the view to first things first and in this connection I might refer even though it may sound somewhat egotistic to a mad idea of mine which was very sternly discouraged and was negatived many many years ago. That was before either the Mettur or the Pykhara Scheme referred to by my very kind friend Mr. G. D. Naidu. I did not think of the Pykhara scheme to start with. I did not think of the Mettur scheme to start with. I was oppressed with the famine-striken tracts of

Cuddapah, Kurnool and Anantapur. They had to be served first because they always brought famine as part of their programme, as part of their yearly activity and that, just as an injury to a little finger, a little toe, is essentially an injury to the whole organism, famine in those parts would mean ultimately weakening of the whole country. How was that famine to be dealt with? My idea was to do exactly what was done many years ago in Central Europe. What Russia is contemplating doing to-day, as you must have seen from the papers three or four days ago, namely, uniting the Danube and the Volga and having a series of waterways, of irrigation sources and of electric power sources right through what is now called the other side of the iron curtain. My idea was to link up the Mahanadi, the Godavari, the Krishna, the Pennar, the Cauvery by a transverse channel, the heights being so regulated that these channels could be inland waterways, thus making it cheaper for goods produced in any part of the country to be transmitted to a port without heavy railway charges, because it is a well-known proposition that water borne traffic is about a third or a fourth as costly as rail borne traffic. And secondly, my idea was that the example of Switzerland may be utilized for the production of power. Switzerland is a small country. We are not. But Switzerland is a poor country. We are. How have they dealt with this question of power? They take the same river Rhone. They construct a series of small dams, not one big dam costing one crore, two crores, ten crores, or twenty crores but a number of small dams at each one of which they produce just enough power for the villages around that dam and

so they have built up a system of interconnected hydro-electric sources of power in Switzerland and have eliminated all the difficulties, the dangers, the dirt, the squalor and the filth and the misery of great agglomerations of population. They have allowed the villagers to remain where they are. They have brought wealth and civilization to the villagers instead of forcing the villagers to emigrate from the village to great centres of population.

I will give you an instance. Most of us wear wrist watches. Most of them are made in Switzerland. How are they made? They are not made in a big factory, in one central place - No. They are made in about two hundred or three hundred villages. The Government and certain private organizations and certain great companies with the full help and co-operation of the government supply lathes and machinery to the inhabitants of a particular village. These three or four villages are given electricity just sufficient for their need from the sources of water power on the Rhine or the Rhone near the lake of Geneva, the lake of Zurich; they are supplied that and each village or group of villages is asked to make one screw, one nut, one hair-spring, one little part of this watch and they make, make that and that alone the whole time, the father in his spare time, the mother in her spare time; the young people before they go to school or when they come back from school, they are at that lathe and do that work and all these things are collected sometimes by co-operative enterprise and sometimes otherwise and brought into Bern or Zurich or Geneva. They are assembled in a big factory and you get the wrist

watch. Now, what are the advantages of that system. The advantages of that system are amongst others, these – that each Swiss village is happy, is contented and the amenities of civilization are brought into that village and there is no overcrowding and there is general neatness and tidiness in this Swiss Village and therefore, there is no town in Switzerland with more than ¼ million of people, because there is no incentive for a villager in one remote corner of Switzerland to go to Bern or Zurich or Geneva or any of these places. He gets everything that he wants. I am speaking in a land of prohibition. Whether he wants his drink or whether he wants his cinema, or whether he wants even racing or any of the forbidden vices, he gets all of them in the village. He can be as vicious as he likes and as virtuous as he likes in the village. He need not go to transport himself to imbibe the vices or the virtues of the great city. Now that is to my mind one of the fundamental problems of India. How you are going to remove that distressing, calamitous influx of people without any work to do, without any incentive or without any ambition, how you are going to prevent that influx into these big cities. What did I hear the other day?

When the Scavenger strike was in full swing in that happy city of Calcutta, certain statistics were compiled and I was told that at the present moment the population of Calcutta is 6½ millions, part of which may be due to the influx of refugees from eastern Pakistan. But a great number is due to people on the search for work, trekking for work, living on the pavement, living in improvised relics

and being subjected to all the maladies that are incidental to such a life. The kind of problem which you get in many quarters of the earth, we have to avoid and you are bound to avoid it for another reason, whatever may be said of the Indian, essentially the Indian likes his close to the earth, likes his village. That idea of the village life is germane to him, comes home to him, gives him a thrill and although he is losing it pretty fast, it is worth-while rehabilitating it. Our industrialization therefore, in my humble opinion, should therefore strive to bring about that result and that result can only be brought about in the way I have indicated, namely, to give up thinking of isolated projects in this province or in that province, to think of what is needed in the way of production and industrialization and locate industries in the place which is most suitable for it. The other day I heard or rather I read an account of the Chief Minister, in a country which does not produce jute excepting to a very exiguous extent, stating to his legislature that in ten years we must make ourselves self-sufficient in the matter of jute. Why, when there are parts of the country which are almost made by the creator for the purpose of producing jute, why? If there is a united India, why should each province be self-sufficient in the matter of sugar or of jute or of anything else. Now, that idea of unified effort and of conjoined endeavour is a thing necessary first in the case of our industrialization.

To summarise, what I have got to say, I believe in the industrialization of this country especially when we lack what is elsewhere the motive force for

industry, that is coal. Our coal is neither extensive in quantity, nor best in quality and, therefore, we must substitute it by what is called white coal, that is hydro-electric power. That hydro-electric power is itself not sufficient because production is not as important in ultimate analysis as transport and distribution. What are we suffering from in the world to-day? To-day, Australia has reported that its wheat harvest is the highest on record – 20 per cent more than last year. The United States is producing a tremendous surplus. But transport difficulties, shipping difficulties, national proclivities and tendencies and ambitions in relation to shipping and the ownership of shipping, that is preventing the feeding of the people of the world. So far as India is concerned, already there are places in Central Provinces and in various other places which are capable of tremendously accentuated, stimulated production of food-stuff. But that food has to come to the consumer. How will it come excepting through waterways. My suggestion therefore is and I am making it with all humility, but nevertheless feel it incumbent on me to make the suggestion because it has not been sufficiently considered, no hydro-electric scheme should be considered as apart from a waterway scheme and an irrigation scheme and an irrigation scheme not for making the wealthy wealthier but for relieving famine where the famine conditions prevail. In the channel scheme which I was indicating, my main channel ran through Bellary, Cuddapah and Anantapur. My scheme was wrecked on account of difficulties in negotiation, firstly, with the Hyderabad Government, secondly, with the Mysore Government, thirdly, with the

Government of India (Laughter). Then, I turned to the Papanasam scheme, because essentially it is better than Pykhara. Then I do not know whether there is any representative of Harvey Brothers here. I entered into negotiations with Harvey Brothers, "Would you take the power for your mills in Madura and Ambasamudram"? They said, "No". "We have purchased new machinery at a cost of many lakhs of rupees. Even if you produce electricity we would not take anything", and that is why, it was because of the refusal of Harvey Brothers to take that power that I thought of Pykhara and of Coimbatore and that is why Mr. G. D. Naidu is not right in giving me all the credit for it, for this Pykhara scheme, because it is only a last alternative. Now, that is to my mind one of the main problems of industrialization. There are many others. But, I do not wish to dwell on them because I am already exceeding my time limit.

Now, you have, Sir, provoked me to speak both on Partition and on Linguistic Provinces (Laughter). But, I decline to be provoked. There are certain political commitments which cannot possibly be avoided. You cannot possibly, when fighting the British Government, make promises of Andhra, Karnataka Linguistic Provinces and that is being the only thing that is good for the world and all that estimate and when you fought that fight, you cannot turn down and say 'I was wrong throughout, I did it only for propaganda and I now leave my words. I will have another method'. You cannot really do that (Applause). And, therefore, whether it is right or wrong, this possibility of linguistic

provinces cannot possibly be ruled out. The only thing to my mind is this that neither this partition nor this linguistic provinces need matter in the slightest degree, if there was that habit of working in unity which I have already alluded to. Let us take that very case of Switzerland.

Switzerland consists of three parts and practically a man from the Southern Parts of Switzerland is not intelligible to man from the northern parts of Switzerland. They speak Italian in the South, French in the West and German in the North of that small country. Has that ever prevented all these enterprises? And to-day, what is India doing? India with a population of four hundred millions more or less, three hundred and seventy-three, –I suppose, Now, you must have been progressing fairly quickly – (Laughter), is now forced to import Swiss mechanicians and engineers and one of them I met yesterday. He has come here for the purpose of starting a machine tool factory in India and they are doing it? How are they able to do it? They are able to do it, their own machine tool factory, it components are situated in all three of these units - German, Italian and French. That does not stand in the way of their combining and combining to such purpose that a country like India, competitive after having examined American, English and French schemes prefers the Swiss method and technique to that of the others. It seems to me therefore that this question of linguistic provinces can either be over-emphasized or under-emphasized. We may over-emphasize it if our idea is to produce differences; if our idea is for instance

to say that every language must be the national language, that every person outside, say, on the other side of the Coouam is to be a congenital enemy you must regard him as essentiallv inimical to your interest and all that, if you take that view, linguistic Provinces can be one of the most outrageously dividing things that can happen. But the alternative is they would forget these linguistics for a moment, in view of the tremendous tasks ahead of us, and in this connection at the risk of being very unconventional and very unpopular, let me say this, professing my remarks with one observation.

It was in the year 1916, long before Mahatma Gandhi started the Hindi idea that it was my good fortune with the President of the Hindi Society of Madras. Now nevertheless, I can give you a story from what happened in Hyderabad.

In Hyderabad they made up their minds that everybody should speak in Urdu, that all the books in the world must be translated into Urdu, that the language of the University must be Urdu They started with that idea. I visited the Usmania University for the purpose of delivering a convocation address there some years ago. Sir Akbar Hydari was then the Prime Minister of Hyderabad and he did me the honour to take me into the Urdu translation branch and after Sir Akbar Hydari's back was turned, I asked the translator 'How it was progressing? He said, 'It is a hopeless business' (Laughter), because, assuming that I invent new terms for every one of these medical, technical expressions, nevertheless, by the time I translate a single book it takes about two years, by

that time a new edition has come out of that book: (Laughter) and that translation might as well be thrown into the sea. Now, until and unless there is a live current of industrial, research, scientific work and organization in India, merely to get on by translating from some other language, especially in technical, engineering, medical and other things, is a hopeless task. What did other countries do? Germany did exactly the same thing as we did. They translated Shakespere, Milton, all sorts of the literary things – quite all right. They began to translate chemical works and you know what tremendous predominance Germany attained in Chemistry. It was done after a preliminary unfortunate effort. They made up their minds not to use Latin or Greek terms. Electricity is a Greek term - 'Electron means Amber' - and therefore they invented German terms for electricity, for Nitrogen, for Oxygen, for Hydrogen, just as I find some Tamil and Hindi works are trying to do just now. It went on for five years. Then the German Students began to leave Germany and go to France (Laughter) and England to study these things because by the time they learnt these names, what was back of these names? That is the idea, they had not the time to gather and organise and implement that idea and therefore, they went back upon the whole thing and Germany after having made a definite effort to translate technical terms into pure Dutch and that is old German, they went back. The result is that to-day in Europe and America most of the scientific terms are either Greek or Latin, botanical terms, chemical terms, physical terms – all these are like that.

Now, so far as our Hindi effort is concerned, we are putting the cart before the horse in my opinion. Let us first make of Hindi, an apt and efficient instrument for the inculcation not only of the Thulasidas Ramayana but of all the modern scientific and technological apparatus. Then, there will be time enough to think of compelling some person to give up every other language in favour of Hindi. And I may say from my own experience. I know very little Spanish. But I was able to travel through the whole of South America with my knowledge of English. English, whether you like it or not, whatever may be said of the Anglo-saxon character or of the character of the particular domination exercised by the Anglo-saxon over this country, whether you like it or not the English has become the world language and for the time being we must, if you are thinking of industrial and scientific advancement, we must get on with it, make the best use of it and afterwards discard it. That is my answer and whether you like it or not, there it is.

Now, there is a great deal talked about "devaluation" and I have, some of you probably know, been speaking a great deal on that subject and I do not want to encumber you with useless knowledge because much knowledge on these matters is really useless although many pretend it is not useless. Now, there is no doubt that we were rushed into devaluation before we were fully prepared for it. There is no doubt that it was a mistake from many points, that is, from the point of view of those who had made certain programmes. I will give you an instance.

I do not want to use economic terms which will frighten all of you and talk of inflationary spirals and deflation of to-day, they call it regression in Americanist. Take this. Most of us have purchased either a Ford Car or a Buick Car or a Chevrolet or some car of that kind. You know how every car maker – unless a man like Mr. G. D. Naidu who can use his inventive genius to reproduce all their spare parts and I know he has done that – each one of them produces only for his model, which will not suit any other model. In fact, if you purchase a Ford Car four years ago, none of these spare parts which are produced to-day will fit that car. We know that very well. Now, most of us have purchased American machines, motor cars, American plant; most of the Dakotas, most of the Air India Fleet, most of the air manufacturing companies and air operating companies are American. Now, whether you like it or not, you have to replace those spare parts from America on this highly inflated value. Now, the answer is – it may be right or it may be wrong – but, if you have got to swallow the bitter pill you may do so. There is no getting away from the fact that to-day English is not equal to America excepting in the higher regions of speculation and of thought. There is no getting away from the fact (Laughter). There is no getting away from the fact that just as we were pre-eminent in philosophy and in abstract speculation, so even to-day in mathematical, physical, chemical, physiological thought, where the idea has to be evolved it is the Frenchman or Englishman that does so. Even to-day, that is a fact, and I speak of it as one who keeps up his

acquaintance in mathematics even now and I do know that higher mathematical thought is essentially French or English. But, on the other hand, the moment that thought has been evolved the way of implementing that thought and bringing it into practice is American (Cheers). I have known myself the difficulty of getting machinery from England — Machinery, spare-parts from England. They have on account of their many disastrous conflicts and misfortunes, they have gone to the back ground. Therefore, to-day, there is no use of speculating on that matter. We must buy America and it is as well if you have to pay more let us pay more. Only let us pay more knowing that we get full value for all that we pay, because the American has got a habit of getting round you before you are aware of it. Now, for this purpose, as our resources are limited, as our needs are great and as our urgency is imminent, we must buy American, but we must buy American with the idea of adequate priorities and concentrating only on those projects which will be of the greatest advantage to the country at large. That is the only thing that I wish to say on "devaluation."

Friends, I have done. I am perfectly willing to answer any questions that are put to me but I do not think I shall be well-advised in taxing either your patience or your ears to a longer extent.

Question

Mr. G. D. Naidu: Please give your advice and opinion on the controls.

Answer

Sir C. P. Ramasami Ayyar: I have got the happy advantage to-day of being unconnected either with Government or with the administration. But I have been connected both with the Government and Administration for about twenty-five years. Now, these controls are necessary so long as a policy implicitly or explicitly is followed of leaving the big man alone and bothering the small man. If even arbitrarily a few men even on suspicion are taught a lesson, then controls may be removed, but, at present, what happens is that, as I do not wish to go into minutia – but take sugar. Everybody seems to be convinced that there is sugar somewhere. Everybody seems to be convinced that that sugar is not moving. Everybody knows that he does not get sugar. Now, why is there not the apt machinery for finding out where the sugar is. If, for instance, condign punishment is inflicted on the boarders, on the monopolists and a great example is made, then you can abolish control, otherwise unfortunate as it is, irksome as it is, controls will have to be kept up, but it appears to me that any government which does not deal with the source of the trouble is obliged to lose its popularity, to lose its following in continuing controls where a shorter, more expeditious, perhaps, more arbitrary method, has to be pursued and may be pursued with advantage.

Vote of Thanks
by
Sri K. Nanjundiah
on 6--12—49.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Well, we have had an interesting discourse from Rig Veda down to the controls and a seasoned administrator solving almost every problem that was solved by an industrial genius, Mr. G. D. Naidu. We heard our distinguished speaker tell us that in California University he was asked to speak on Buddist philosophy. Well, in Coimbatore University, if I may call this, for it is fast becoming a technological university always and has been going speedily, if a seasoned administrator like Sir C. P. Ramasami Ayyar is called in to tell us all our problems and give the best solution of the day, that I take it is a little refresher course for which we are all prepared and we value your discourse, Sir, very often, because it is straight, it touches almost every question from a realistic standpoint and from this university of Mr. G. D. Naidu. Well, he has no degrees of his own, but every one that comes here, knows that he has his own plans, he does not wait for anybodyelse's recognition, he at once gives effect to them. It is very kind of you, Sir, to have responded to his invitation and to have given us this opportunity of listening to a discourse which, as I said, is of absorbing interest particularly to the

citizen of to-day who is tossed from problem to problem, medium of instruction, half-a-dozen languages the parent is asked to think of early morning whenever he wants to send his children to school, half-a-dozen controls willingly or otherwise he is asked to face and above all, he is being told he has got to pay more for everything that he purchases from abroad. Well, you have given us a lot of information on this and on behalf of this gathering and Mr. G. D. Naidu may I thank you, Sir, and request you to be more often in this University and give us many more of these refreshing courses. (Applause)

Well, to you all Ladies and Gentlemen, who have responded as I have been often saying, it has been a source of great pleasure, because it is not merely a mere refreshing, he gives us a lot of tea, he gives us a little bit of education which he gets from many parts and, himself a genius, it is no wonder that he gets administrative genius, he gets industrial genius and he gets every other genius from every other part, and when they meet we have the best of it. Thank you all.

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